Advantages and Disadvantages of Water Quality Data Submission Tools

Tool	Definition	Advantages	Disadvantages	Advice
STORET Data template	An Excel file formatted to provide the parameters and metadata necessary for STORET compatibility	Free, appropriate for electronic data submission requirements of 106 Guidance	Training necessary Somewhat difficult to manage over time and with large data sets	Tribes are encouraged to use the template as a first tool to submit data electronically to EPA.
WebSIM and WQX Web	Web-based STORET Import Module and WQX Submission Tool, sites which allow users to upload data and configure formatting for transmission to the STORET warehouse	Free, relatively simple internet applications to upload data into the STORET Warehouse Data analysis easier through STORET	Requires manual operation to submit data, some configuration required	Tribes can learn the WebSIM interface and continue to use this application as it transitions to WQXWeb (similar interface and function).
Network Node	A web server that facilitates the interface between database systems and the Exchange Network	Seamless exchange of data between groups regardless of hardware, operating system, or programming environment Fully-automated	Costly, usually only feasible under Exchange Network grants Technical expertise and network server required	Tribes with Exchange Network grants are encouraged to build a node that can both request data from and publish data to the Exchange Network.
Network Node Client	Software on a web server that facilitates the interface between database systems and the Exchange Network	Seamless publishing of data to the STORET Warehouse Cheaper than a network node Requires manual operation to submit data	Requires manual operation to submit data Cannot respond to data queries from other nodes, and therefore cannot interact with the Exchange Network Technical expertise and network server required	Tribes with Exchange Network grants are encouraged to build a node that can both request data from and publish data to the Exchange Network. A network node client only has the capability to publish data.